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REMARKS

CLAIM 17

The Applicants have amended claim 17 to correct a minor error. As such, the Applicants submit that the amendment is made for reasons unrelated to patentability and that no new matter has been added.

CONCLUSION

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Thus, the Applicants request that Examiner enters this amendment prior to issuance of the allowed patent. If, however, the Examiner believes that any unresolved issues still exist, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Keith Taboada at (732) 530-9404 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being transmitted by facsimile under 37 C.F.R. §1.8 on <u>January 6, 2004</u> and is addressed to the Mail Stop Issue Fee, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, Facsimile No. (703) 872-9306.

Allyson M. Deles

Printed Name of Person Signing

Date of signature